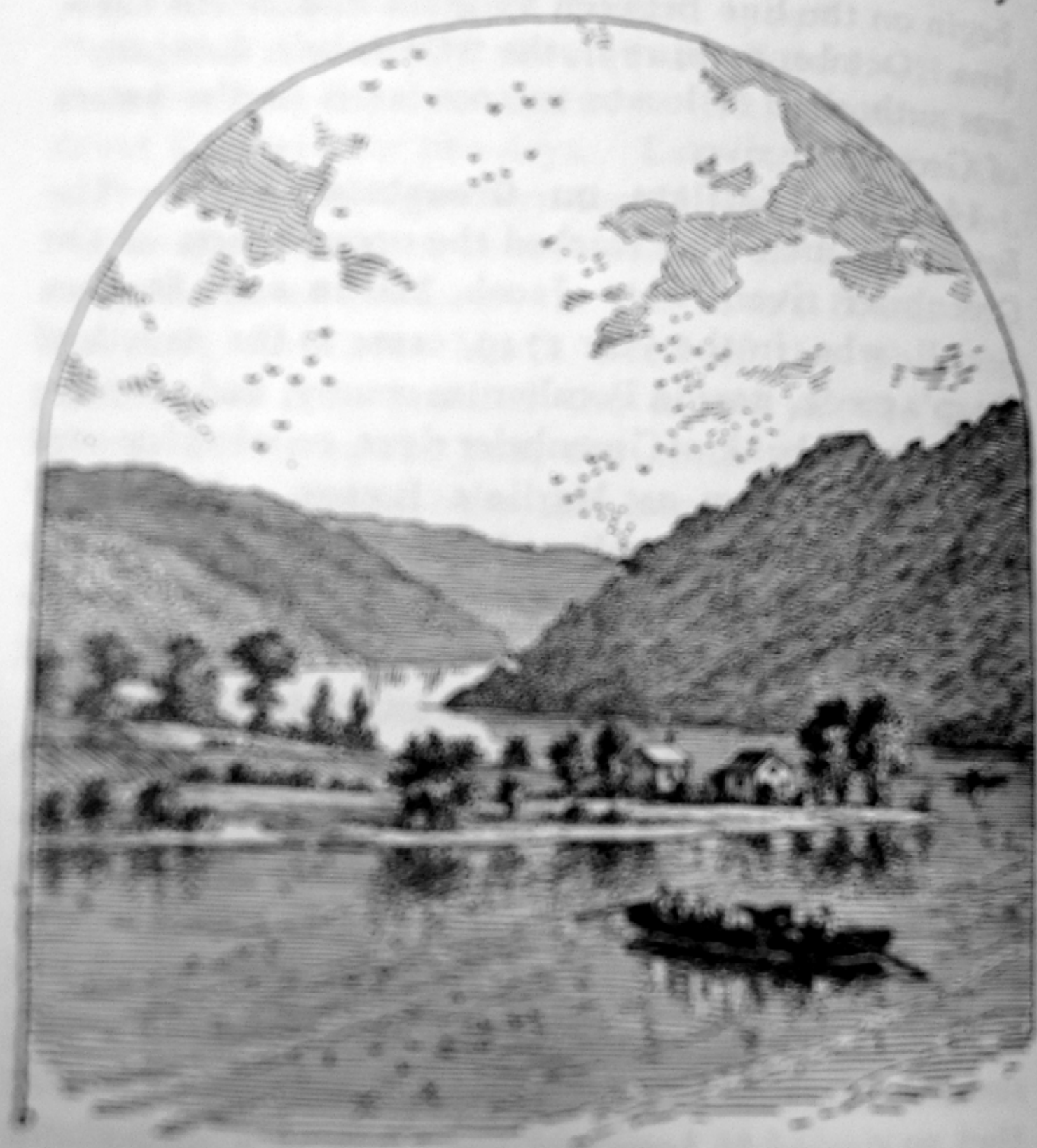


upper courses of the Guandotte and Twelve Pole rivers; and June 28th, 1750, the party reached New river, opposite the mouth of the Greenbrier. They



JUNCTION OF THE GREENBRIER AND NEW RIVERS.

crossed the former and continued up the latter on their return home. Thus, Dr. Thomas Walker, with five

West Virginia south of the Great Kanawha, and the first who saw the mouth of Greenbrier river.

**16. Christopher Gist Explores the Hills and Valleys of West Virginia.**—Christopher Gist was a distinguished surveyor of North Carolina. In September, 1750, the Ohio Company, for £150 and other considerations, employed him to make explorations in the Ohio Valley. Gist began his journey in October, 1750, and returned in May, 1751, having descended the Ohio river to the falls, now Louisville, Kentucky, but he had only observed the lands north of the Ohio. November 4th, 1751, the Company sent him out again, this time to explore the lands between the Monongahela and Great Kanawha rivers. He traversed this entire region, being the first white man to explore that part of West Virginia between these rivers.

**17. The Ohio Company Petitions for a Second Grant.**—Gist made his report to the Company in October, 1752, and it hastened to petition the king to grant to it all the territory south of the Ohio river bounded as follows: "beginning at the mouth of the Kiskiminetas Creek—a tributary of the Allegheny in Pennsylvania—thence down the Ohio to the mouth of the Great Kanawha River; thence with that stream and New River to the mouth of Greenbrier River; thence a straight line along the mountains to the southeast spring on the Monongahela, and thence northward, until a line from the mountains reaches the place of beginning." In consideration of this grant the Company was to speedily erect two forts, one

at the mouth of Chartier's Creek on the Allegheny, and the other at the mouth of the Great Kanawha, and to settle three hundred families within the limits of its grant. War put an end to all this.

18. George Washington's First Public Service.—Meanwhile the French were putting forth every effort to strengthen themselves in the valley of the Ohio, and in 1753 advanced south-



GEORGE WASHINGTON

ward, building a cordon of forts extending from Lake Erie to the Ohio. To stay these movements, Governor Robert Dinwiddie, of Virginia, determined first to resort to diplomacy. Major George Washington, then but twenty-one years of age, was summoned to Williamsburg, at that time the capital of Virginia, and entrusted with the hazardous

mission of carrying messages to the French authorities on the Upper Ohio. With several companions he began the journey over the mountains passing through what is now the eastern part of West Virginia. December 4th, 1753, he reached Venango, on the Allegheny River, and passed on to Fort Le Boeuf, where he delivered Dinwiddie's message to the French commander. That official stated that his orders were to hold possession of the Ohio Valley, and he would do so to the best of his ability. Washington's first



public service was ended and after a narrow escape from death from drowning when crossing the Allegheny river he retraced his steps over the mountains to the English border.



WASHINGTON AMID THE ICE OF THE ALLEGHENY.

19. First Attempt at a Settlement on the Upper Waters of the Monongahela.—The first effort to settle on the waters of the Monongahela was made by David Tygart and a man named

Files in the year 1754. Files settled on the creek still bearing his name, which empties into the Tygart's Valley river near Beverly, the present seat of justice of Randolph county. Tygart settled a few miles above Files, on the river, in the name of which his own is preserved. They found it difficult to procure provisions for their families and they determined to remove eastward, but before this could be done, the Indians attacked the family of Files and killed all except one boy who was some distance from home at the time of the attack. He fled and warned the Tygart family, all of whom were saved by flight. Thus ended in disaster the first effort to establish civilized homes on the waters of the Monongahela.

**20. The Oldest County in West Virginia.**—Hampshire is by twenty-five years the oldest county in West Virginia. It was formed by an act of the Virginia House of Burgesses in 1754, from Augusta and Frederick counties, but owing to continuous war, it was not organized until 1757. It was within the Fairfax Patent and derived its name from the following incident. Lord Fairfax happening to be at Winchester, one day observed a drove of fat hogs, and inquiring whence they came, he was told that they were from the South Branch of the Potomac. He then remarked that when a new country should be formed to the west of Frederick, it should be called for Hampshire county, England, so celebrated for its fine hogs.

## CHAPTER VI.

### THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR.

From 1754 to 1763.

#### 1. The Conflicting Claims to the Ohio Valley.—

Both France and England continued to assert their claims to the Ohio Valley, in which was included nearly all of West Virginia. Neither occupied the land, yet both were determined to possess it. The courts of London and Versailles watched with jealous eyes the actions of each other, and it became evident that the final struggle for territorial supremacy in America was near at hand. "The country west of the Great Mountains is the center of the British dominions," wrote Lord Halifax, who with other courtiers was determined to possess it.

2. The Beginning of the Struggle.—Great Britain was ably seconded by the Virginia Colony, and a company of West Virginia pioneers was speedily collected in the Hampshire hills, who, under the command of Captain William Trent, crossed the mountains, and in January, 1754, began the erection of a fort at the forks of the Ohio—now Pittsburg. This work was prosecuted until April 16th, when a large force of French and Indians from Canada, having descended the Allegheny river, appeared on the



scene. Contrecoeur, the French commander, sent a summons to surrender. Resistance was vain. Captain Trent had returned to the East, leaving Ensign Ward in command; he surrendered the unfinished structure and marched up the Monongahela. The French completed the work and bestowed upon it the name of Fort Duquesne, in honor of Marquis de Duquesne, who had become Governor-General of Canada in 1752.

**3. Erection and Surrender of Fort Necessity.**—Meantime, Virginia was mustering a force for service on the Ohio. Lieutenant-Colonel Washington with two companies reached Will's Creek—now Cumberland City, Maryland—where he learned of the surrender of Ensign Ward at the forks of the Ohio. Without awaiting the arrival of an additional force, Washington pushed into the wilderness, and on May 9th was at a crossing of the Youghiogheny river. From here he proceeded to the Great Meadows where, hearing that the French and Indians were advancing against him, he halted and built Fort Necessity. May 28th, the Virginians by a forced march, surprised and captured the French advance, but the main body came on and attacked the fort which Washington surrendered July 4th, 1754, and in great discomfiture began the march back to Will's Creek.

**4. England's Preparation for War.**—The year, 1754, closed with the French in complete possession of the Ohio Valley; but a war had begun which was to change the geography of a continent. Both



GENERAL EDWARD BRADDOCK.\*

nations speedily mustered veteran regiments fresh from the battle-fields of the Old World, to do service in the New. The Duke of Cumberland selected General Edward Braddock to command the British troops destined for American service, and from London, Braddock went to Cork to hasten preparation for the embarkation of the army. The delay was irksome and the commander sailed in the

ship "Norwich," accompanied by the "Centurion" and "Syren," on December 14th, 1754.

**5. The Army on the Ocean.**—At length, all things were in readiness, and January 14th, 1755, the fleet, with the 44th and 48th Royal Infantry Regiments on

\*General Edward Braddock was a son of Edward Braddock, a Major-General in the English army, and was born about the year 1695. He entered the army as an Ensign in the Cold Stream Guards, on the 11th day of October, 1710, and rose rapidly in the scale of promotion because of bravery and gallantry displayed on bloody fields, his superior officer being the Duke of Cumberland. That officer chose Braddock to command all the British troops to be sent to Virginia because his "courage and military discipline had recommended him as of ability for so great a trust." For nearly fifty years he had been connected with the Cold Stream Guards, and was a true soldier, but he knew nothing of the arts of war as practised by the Indians of North America. The world knows the story of his march and of the fatal field of Monongahela.



board, left the harbor of Cork. It consisted of the following named vessels, the "Anna," "Halifax," "Osgood," "London," "Industry," "Isabel and Mary," "Terribel," "Fame," "Concord," "Prince Frederick," "Fishburn," "Molly," and the "Severn." This fleet was under convoy of the "Seahorse" and "Nightingale," two of the most powerful ships of the British navy. On February 20th, the "Norwich" with General Braddock on board, reached the coast of Virginia. The "Osgood" and "Fishburn" arrived on March 2d, and within the two succeeding weeks the entire fleet lay at Alexandria on the Potomac, nine miles below the present site of Washington City. Thus was a British army first landed in the New World.

**6. The Army in America.**—On April 14th, General Braddock met a number of the Colonial governors in a council of war at Annapolis, Maryland, and a general plan for the prosecution of the war was adopted. A part of this plan was the movement of General Braddock against Fort Duquesne. In compliance with this decision, the army left Alexandria, April 20th, and six days later it arrived at Fredericktown, Maryland, where it was joined by George Washington, who was made an aid-de-camp to the general.

**7. The King's Army on the Soil of West Virginia.**—On April 30th, the army left Fredericktown, and crossing the Potomac below Shepherdstown, began the march over the soil of West Virginia. Cabin homes dotted the landscape of what is now Jefferson County, and to the inhabitants the army was an

object of the greatest interest. Slowly the splendid pageant moved on; long lines of soldiers in scarlet uniform contrasting strangely with the verdure of the forest, filed along the narrow paths, while strains of



THE KING'S ARMY IN WEST VIRGINIA.

marital music filled the air. The route by Winchester was taken for the reason that at that time no road had been constructed up the Potomac river. After a brief rest at that place, the army moved in a north-